


FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHERYL CASCIANI, CHAIR, COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY <i>Maria A. for Cheryl Casciani</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 th Floor		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 12-0155 Stormwater Remediation Fee		

DATE:

TO

June 4, 2013

The Honorable President and Members of City Council
City Hall 4th floor
100 N. Holliday Street

Please be advised of the following comments offered on behalf of the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability (CoS). The CoS has reviewed the **City Council Bill # 12-0155 Stormwater Remediation Fee** and is offering the following comments.

The Baltimore City Commission on Sustainability has been charged with the responsibility to oversee the implementation of the Sustainability Plan which promotes the environmental, social and economic well-being of the city so that it may continue to thrive for generations to come. Because of this responsibility, we believe that it is our duty to provide advice and direction regarding any actions that may impact the goal of creating a more sustainable Baltimore City for all. As the City works toward protecting our waterways, we at the Sustainability Commission would like to publicly announce our opinion on the impact of the Stormwater Remediation Fee on Baltimore's goal of creating swimmable and fishable waterways.

Stormwater runoff pollutes waterways, endangers ecosystems and creates unhealthy environments. The State has mandated that large jurisdictions implement stormwater remediation fees. It is crucial that the bill established by Council supports all of the three foundations of Sustainability – People, Planet and Prosperity.

CCB #12-0155 will assist in creating healthy environments for the people of Baltimore by greening our communities through rain gardens and tree planting. Data has proven that these elements reduce asthma and improve public health. It will support the planet by removing pollutants from the water so that our fish and crabs are safe to eat. It will support prosperity through the creation of new jobs needed to build and maintain the new stormwater facilities. Through the stormwater credit system, all property owners, including residents and businesses, will be able to reduce their stormwater fees.

The stormwater remediation fee is crucial to providing funding that will improve infrastructure and mitigate the unhealthy effects of stormwater runoff. Supporting these efforts, and mitigating stormwater runoff supports Baltimore in becoming a healthy, green and growing City.

CC:

- Alexander M. Sanchez, Chief of Staff
- Kaliopé Parthemos, Mayor's Office
- Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
- Karen Randle, Council Services
- Larry Greene, Council Services
- Thomas J. Stosur, Department of Planning
- Beth Strommen, Office of Sustainability

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